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# GUIDE TO EMERGENCY & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AFTER CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

## IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

### Emergency Shelters & Housing

#### Resources Available:

**California Office of Emergency Services:** <https://wildfirerecovery.caloes.ca.gov/>

**Recovery services finder through CA.gov:** Answer a few questions and get a custom list of state and federal services that may be available.

- **Access:** <https://ca.gov/LAFires>

**LA Disaster Relief Navigator:** This tool helps create a personalized action plan that contains the critical financial and wellness resources available to individuals impacted by the wildfires.

- **Access:** <https://wildfires.betterangels.la/>

**Search for resources (such as shelters, food pantries, etc.) by zip code:** <https://findhelp.org>

**2-1-1:** A free, confidential helpline that connects people to essential services in their community, such as available transitional housing and shelter options, food pantries, health care, and community centers in your area.

- **Phone:** Call 2-1-1 or text your ZIP code to 898211.
- **Website:** <https://www.211.org>

**Red Cross Shelters:** Provide temporary housing, meals, emergency supplies, and, in some cases, financial assistance.

- **Access:** Find shelters via the Red Cross website ([redcross.org](http://redcross.org)) or 1-800-RED-CROSS.
  - Safe shelter
  - Access to food
  - Basic health services
  - Emotional support
  - Financial assistance to Californians who lived within the fire perimeters of Eaton, Palisades, Hurst, and Kenneth, as defined by Cal OES.

**Salvation Army:** Some locations provide Disaster Services, Emergency Shelters, Emergency Financial Assistance, and food and nutrition programs.

- **Access:** <https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/> or call 1-800-SAL-ARMY

**FEMA Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA):** Includes rental assistance or temporary housing for displaced individuals.

- **Access:** You must have a FEMA application number, and approval from FEMA to participate in the TSA Program. Apply at [disasterassistance.gov](http://disasterassistance.gov) or call 1-800-621-FEMA.
- **Criteria:** Must have sustained damage in a federally declared disaster area and be uninsured or underinsured.

## Food and Water

- Los Angeles Food Pantry Locator: [www.lafoodbank.org/find-food/pantry-locator](http://www.lafoodbank.org/find-food/pantry-locator)
- World Central Kitchen (WCK) is distributing free hot meals to the public at various locations in Southern California. You can view the times and location on their website at [www.wck.org/news/meal-locations-ca](http://www.wck.org/news/meal-locations-ca).

## Challenges:

- High demand may lead to limited availability.
- Documentation (proof of residence, income, insurance details) is required, which may be lost in the disaster.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

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### FEMA Individual Assistance Grants

- **What it Covers:** may reimburse eligible applicants for temporary housing, home repairs to their primary home, personal property losses, medical and dental expenses related to the disaster, childcare and other serious disaster-related essential needs not covered by insurance.
- **Important Information:**
  - Residents who have insurance need to file insurance claims for damage to their homes, personal property and vehicles before applying.
  - FEMA assistance is not taxed and will not affect Social Security, Medicaid or other federal benefits.
  - FEMA grants do not have to be repaid.
- **How to Apply:**
  - Online at [disasterassistance.gov](https://disasterassistance.gov)
  - By phone at 1-800-621-FEMA (800-621-3362). Lines are open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. 7 days a week.
  - On the [FEMA App](#) (available at the Apple App Store or Google Play).
  - Visit a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) - To locate a DRC near you, visit the [DRC Locator](#).
- **Criteria:**
  - Must be in a declared disaster area.
  - Must have uninsured or underinsured losses.
- **Deadline:** March 10, 2025
- **Potential Challenges:**
  - Processing times can be long.
  - Appeals are sometimes necessary for denied claims.
- **Process:**
  - After the application is submitted, FEMA will reach out by phone, text, or email to schedule a home inspection to assess disaster damage. Calls may come from an unknown number. It is essential that these calls are answered.
  - After the inspection, you will receive a Determination Letter that will arrive by email or U.S. Mail.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA)- Employment Development Department of CA

- For: Workers, such as self-employed people, who are not eligible for regular unemployment benefits and lost their jobs or had hours reduced because of the disaster.
  - This is a temporary response to the wildfires and windstorms under the federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA).
- **Deadline:** DUA benefit claims must be filed by March 10, 2025
- **Information:**
  - Eligible full-time workers can receive between \$186 and \$450 per week, for up to 26 weeks. Part-time workers may also be eligible for benefits.
  - Eligible individuals who were unemployed as of January 12 can request to have their claim start on that date, even if they apply after January 12.
  - The last payable week of this emergency benefit ends July 12, 2025.
- **Access:** <https://edd.ca.gov/link/fd234646c1004d6fad2938024ae76e95.aspx>

### Relief Grants for residents and small businesses

- **LA Region Small Business & Worker Relief Fund**
  - **For:** Workers, small businesses, and nonprofits impacted by the fires.
  - **Relief Amount:** Up to \$2,000 for displaced workers and \$25,000 for small businesses/nonprofits.
  - **Deadline:** Applications close February 24, 2025.
  - **Apply at:** [laregionfund.lacounty.gov](http://laregionfund.lacounty.gov)
- **LA County Household Relief Grant**
  - **For:** Los Angeles County residents who have been directly impacted by the 2025 Los Angeles Eaton and Palisades fires and windstorm events.
  - **Relief Amount:** Grants in the amount of \$6,000, \$12,000 or \$18,000 depending on household size and composition.
  - **Application dates:** Opens- February 26, 2025 through Closes- March 12, 2025
  - **Apply at:** [lacountyrelieffund.com](http://lacountyrelieffund.com)

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

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- **Red Cross California Wildfires Financial Assistance**
  - **For:** Californians who lived within the fire perimeters of Eaton, Palisades, Hurst, and Kenneth, as defined by Cal OES.
    - Receiving Red Cross financial assistance does not make you ineligible for FEMA assistance.
    - The Red Cross is a charity, not a government agency, and people do not need to be American citizens to receive our help.
    - Red Cross financial assistance is not a loan and does not need to be repaid.
  - **Deadline:** Applications close **February 26, 2025** (there may be future rounds)
  - **Apply:** <https://www.redcross.org/about-us/our-work/disaster-relief/wildfire-relief/california-wildfires-financial-assistance.html>
- **SBA Disaster Loans** (Low-interest federal loans for businesses, homeowners, and renters)
  - **Homeowners:** Up to \$500,000 for repairs/replacement.
  - **Renters:** Up to \$100,000 for damaged personal property.
  - **Businesses:** Up to \$2 million in physical & economic injury disaster loans.
  - **Apply at:** [sba.gov/disaster](https://sba.gov/disaster)
  - **Challenges:** SBA loans require a credit check and proof of repayment ability.
- **California Fire Foundation SAVE Program:**
  - Eligible survivors of fire and natural disasters may receive a gift card to purchase basic needs necessities. Please visit their website for more information and to view participating departments:
- **Entertainment Community Fund; Disaster Emergency Financial Assistance**
  - **For: Those in the entertainment industry** who experienced a loss of home, damage to the home, or experienced an extended mandatory evacuation due to the Southern California Wildfires.
  - **Apply at:** <https://entertainmentcommunity.org/CAFires> or call 323.330.2455
  - *ECF may have other grants available for those that do not meet the criteria for the Disaster Emergency Financial Assistance. <https://entertainmentcommunity.org/>*



## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

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### Loans

- **Jewish Free Loan Association (JFLA):** Offers up to \$15,000 in zero-interest and zero fee loans for immediate assistance with temporary housing, purchase of essential supplies such as clothing and medicine, among other emergency needs. There are also a limited number of loans up to \$2,000 without a guarantor that are available on a first come, first-served basis. You can apply on their website at: <https://www.jfla.org/personal-loans/interest-free-emergency-personal-loan>
- **Credit Union of Southern California:** Financial relief may be eligible for those impacted by the wildfire. Learn more at [cusocal.org/about-us/how-we-give-back/wildfires](http://cusocal.org/about-us/how-we-give-back/wildfires).
- **Emergency Essentials Loans:** Borrow \$1,500 at 0% interest for 6 months with no payments for 60 days and no credit history requirement.
- **Wildfire Relief Loan:** Access up to \$5,000 per household at 0% interest for 12 months, with no payments for 60 days.
- **Loan Deferrals:** Defer a payment on an existing loan to free up funds for urgent needs. Call 714.671.2728 or email [Collections@CUSoCal.org](mailto:Collections@CUSoCal.org).

### Overall Challenges

- High Volume in applicants may create delays in application processing.

## TEMPORARY HOUSING/SHELTER

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- **American Red Cross Los Angeles Region:** Call 800.675.5799 or visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org)
- **Westwood Recreation Center:** 1350 S Sepulveda Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90025 (Accepts small animals and serves as an overnight shelter)
- **Van Nuys Sherman Oaks Recreation Center:** 14201 Huston Street, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423
- **El Camino Real Charter High School:** 5440 Valley Circle Boulevard, Woodland Hills, CA 91367
- **Pasadena Civic Center:** 300 East Green Street, Pasadena, CA 91101
- **Northridge Park:** 10120 Reseda Boulevard, Northridge, CA 91324
- **Richie Valens Recreation Center:** 10736 Laurel Canyon Boulevard, Pacoima, CA 91331
- **Stoner Recreation Center:** 1835 Stoner Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90025

## TEMPORARY HOUSING/SHELTER

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- **Sepulveda Recreation Center:** 8825 Kester Avenue, Panorama, CA 91402
- **Pomona Fairplex:** 1101 W McKinley Avenue, Pomona, CA 91768
- **Pan Pacific Recreation Center:** 7600 Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90036
- **Lanark Recreation Center:** 21816 Lanark Street, Canoga Park, CA 91301
- **Dream Center:** 2301 Bellevue Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90026
- **Best Western Plus Pavilions:** Red Cross rates for those who call the hotel directly and are affected by the wildfire. Address: 1176 W Katella Avenue, Anaheim, CA 92802.
  - Phone: 714.776.0140
- Planet Fitness locations in Los Angeles are offering anyone impacted by the fires and first responders free access to showers, WiFi and rest. No membership required.
- **Hotel Association of Los Angeles:** List of hotels offering discounted rates for displaced individuals.
- **The City of Anaheim:** List of hotels offering discounted rates for those displaced by the fire.

## DEBRIS REMOVAL & PROPERTY REBUILDING ASSISTANCE

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### California Debris Removal Program

- Free government-sponsored debris removal for eligible property owners.
  - Property owners do NOT need to sign up for Phase 1 which removes household hazardous debris as this is done automatically.
  - Phase 2 involves removing visible fire debris, such as chimneys, hazardous trees, ash and, if specified on the right-of-entry (ROE) form by the owner, foundations. A Right of Entry form is required if you want the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to do work free of charge. Those opting out should also submit the form to avoid delaying work in their communities.
- **Deadline to enroll:** March 31, 2025.
- **Apply at:** [www.recovery.lacounty.gov/debris-removal](http://www.recovery.lacounty.gov/debris-removal) or call 213-308-8305 (Hours of operation are from 6:00 AM to 6:30 PM PST)